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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

ENVIRONMENT

DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Report of the First (Economic) Committee

A. Human settlements

1. The First (Economic) Committee considered the question of human settlements (agenda item 8 (h)) at its 3rd, 7th to 9th, 16th and 18th meetings, on 10, 16, 17, 23 and 24 July 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its thirteenth session (A/46/8); 1/

(b) Note by the Executive Director on the second report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (A/46/8/Add.1);

1/ For the final text, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/46/8).

GE.91-71551/3442B

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory (A/46/262-E/1991/95).

2. At its 7th to 9th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the question of human settlements (agenda item 8 (h)) and the questions of environment (agenda item 8 (i)) and desertification and drought (agenda item 8 (j)).

3. At the 3rd meeting, on 10 July, it heard an introductory statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 16 July, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community), the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Austria, China and Spain and the observers for Norway (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Sri Lanka and Senegal. The observer for Palestine made a statement. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations also made a statement. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme made a statement.

5. At the 8th meeting, on 16 July, statements were made by the representatives of the Bahamas, Morocco, Pakistan, Japan, Yugoslavia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Canada, the Sudan, Turkey, Mexico, France, Argentina, Algeria, Indonesia, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the observers for Venezuela, Egypt, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and Uganda.

6. At the 9th meeting, on 17 July, statements were made by the representatives of Kenya, Czechoslovakia and Brazil.

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements

7. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of Belgium, 2/ Chile, Denmark, 2/ Ecuador, Egypt, 2/ France, Germany, Greece, 2/ Ireland, 2/ Italy, Lebanon, 2/ Morocco, the Netherlands, Senegal, 2/ Spain, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft decision (E/1991/C.1/L.14) entitled "Report of the Commission on Human Settlements". Subsequently, Portugal 2/ and Sri Lanka 2/ joined in sponsoring the draft decision.

8. At the 18th meeting, on 24 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ahmed Amaziane (Morocco), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft decision.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision E/1991/C.1/L.14 (see para. 11 below, draft decision I).

2/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of human settlements

10. At the 18th meeting, on 24 July, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it take note of the documents considered in connection with the question of human settlements (see para. 11 below, draft decision II).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

11. The First (Economic) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

DRAFT DECISION I

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements

The Economic and Social Council, having considered the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its thirteenth session, 3/ decides:

(a) To endorse the report, as adopted by the Commission on the clear understanding that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) referred to in Commission resolution 13/3 4/ remains of a purely informal character;

(b) To transmit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session for consideration and action, as appropriate.

DRAFT DECISION II

Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of human settlements

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the following documents:

(a) Note by the Executive Director on the second report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; 5/

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory. 6/

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/46/8).

4/ Ibid., annex I, sect. A.2.

5/ A/46/8/Add.1.

6/ A/46/262-E/1991/95.

B. Environment

12. The First (Economic) Committee considered the question of environment (agenda item 8 (i)) at its 7th to 9th and 18th meetings, on 16, 17 and 24 July 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227 (A/46/138-E/1991/52);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas (A/46/156-E/1991/54);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on traffic in and disposal, control and transboundary movements of toxic and dangerous products and wastes (A/46/214-E/1991/77);

(d) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its sixteenth session (E/1991/L.26). 7/

13. At its 7th to 9th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the question of environment and the questions of human settlements and desertification and drought (see paras. 2, and 4-6 above).

14. At the 6th meeting, on 16 July, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Reports considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of the environment

15. At the 18th meeting, on 24 July, on the proposal of the Chairman the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it take note of reports considered in connection with the question of the environment (see para. 16 below).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

16. The First (Economic) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

7/ For the final text, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No.25 (A/46/25).

Reports considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of the environment

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227; 8/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas; 9/

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on traffic in and disposal, control and transboundary movements of toxic and dangerous products and wastes; 10/

(d) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its sixteenth session. 11/

C. Desertification and drought

17. The First (Economic) Committee considered the question of desertification and drought (agenda item 8 (j)) at its 7th to 9th, 11th, 14th, 16th and 18th meetings, on 16 to 19, 23 and 24 July 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (A/46/157-E/1991/55);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa (A/46/268-E/1991/107)

(c) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including the implementation of the Plan in the Sudano-Sahelian region (E/1991/L.29). 12/

18. At its 7th to 9th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the question of desertification and drought and the questions of human settlements and environment (see paras. 2 and 4-6 above).

8/ A/46/138-E/1991/52.

9/ A/46/156-E/1991/54.

10/ A/46/214-E/1991/77.

11/ E/1991/L.26.

12/ To be issued as an official document of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session and of the Economic and Social Council.

19. At the 7th meeting, on 16 July, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Director of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office.

Second phase of the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification of the International Fund for Agricultural Development

20. At the 9th meeting, on 17 July, the observer for Senegal, 2/ on behalf of the African States, introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.1/L.4) entitled "Second phase of the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification" of the International Fund for Agricultural Development

21. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ahmed Amaziane (Morocco), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution and replaced operative paragraph 4, which read:

> "Appeals to the international donor community to spare no effort to increase resources for the second phase of the Special Programme so that the level of resource commitment may be comparable to that in the first phase",

by the following:

> "Invites donors to endorse resolution 60 (XIII) of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, concerning the possibility of additional voluntary contributions to the second phase of the Special Programme without prejudicing the deliberations on the integration of the Special Programme into the general activities of the International Fund for Agricultural Development."

22. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.4, as orally revised (see para. 32 below, draft resolution I).

Countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa

23. At the 12th meeting, on 18 July, the observer for Senegal, 2/ on behalf of the African States, introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.1/L.9) entitled "Countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa". Subsequently, Australia, 2/ France, Pakistan and Viet Nam 2/ joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

> "The Economic and Social Council,
>
> "Recalling General Assembly resolutions 39/208 of 17 December 1984, 40/175 of 17 December 1985 and 42/188 of 11 December 1987, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/44 of 21 July 1986,

"Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/209 of 17 December 1985, whereby the Assembly rationalized the consideration of drought and desertification issues,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/172A of 19 December 1989 on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

"Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, included protection and management of land resources by, inter alia, combating deforestation, desertification and drought among the issues of major concern, and paid renewed attention to drought and desertification in its enunciation of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

"Deeply concerned at the dramatic effects of accelerating desertification, which have caused a substantial decline in agricultural output and served in particular to aggravate the current economic crisis in Africa,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa, 13/

"Taking note of the work of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on this question and Governing Council decision 15/23 of 25 May 1989, 14/

"Taking note of the important contribution made by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in helping the countries of the region to prepare for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and encouraging the Office to continue and intensify its efforts in that area,

"Congratulating the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office on its organization of consultative meetings of the Sudano-Sahelian countries, in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in Ouagadougou from 13 to 15 February 1991 and in Cairo from 8 to 10 July 1991, and its painstaking preparations for those meetings in the countries concerned and with such partners as the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development,

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13/ A/46/286-E/1991/107.

14/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/44/25), annex I.

"Welcoming the results and resolutions of the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification in the countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel and the Economic Community of West African States, in the Maghreb countries, in Egypt and in the Sudan, held at Dakar in July and November 1985, and in Algiers in October 1988,

"Welcoming also the renewed efforts of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office aimed at increasing support to the countries and organizations concerned and at cooperating with them, and in particular with the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development,

"Aware of the efforts that are already being made in the African region, inter alia, to combat drought and desertification, and the commitments made in Cairo and Kampala,

"Bearing in mind the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, 15/

"Acknowledging that, in view of the scale and gravity of desertification and drought, programmes to combat those scourges require financial and human resources beyond the means of the countries concerned,

"1. Reaffirms the need for sustained implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/172 A;

"2. Recognizes the sustained and praiseworthy efforts made by the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel to combat desertification and drought, and welcomes its fruitful cooperation with Governments and United Nations organs and bodies;

"3. Appeals urgently to the international community, particularly donor countries, to continue to support the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development and the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification;

"4. Welcomes with satisfaction the progress made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development through its Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification;

"5. Stresses the fundamental importance of South-South cooperation in executing programmes to combat desertification and drought and of the necessary support of the international community for such cooperation;

15/ DP/1991/45.

"6. Recalls with satisfaction the interest expressed at the Summit of leading industrialized countries held in Paris from 14 to 16 July 1989 in matters relating to the campaign against desertification and in particular the planned Sahara and Sahel observatory;

"7. Notes with appreciation the solidarity with which the international community has responded to the assistance needs resulting from the emergency in Africa, particularly with regard to food aid, emergency medical assistance and the fight against grasshoppers and locusts;

"8. Recommends that, within the framework of bilateral and multilateral development assistance programmes, the fight against desertification and drought should be given priority attention in keeping with the scope of those problems;

"9. Invites the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to step up its efforts to mobilize additional resources in support of efforts by the countries within its remit and by the relevant regional organizations, notably the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development;

"10. Urges the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to continue to help the Sudano-Sahelian countries to prepare for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the follow-up activities resulting therefrom;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to place greater emphasis, in the World Economic Survey, on the situation and prospects of countries stricken by desertification and drought;

"12. Further requests the Secretary-General, given the urgency of the situation of the countries stricken by desertification and drought, to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the countries concerned, and to put forward specific, coordinated proposals for action with due regard for the results of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of relevance to this issue."

24. At the 18th meeting, on 24 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Amaziane (Morocco), introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.1/L.16), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.9.

25. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.16 (see para. 32 below, draft resolution II).

26. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.16, draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.9 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

Combating aridity, soil erosion, salinity, water-logging, desertification and the effects of drought in South Asia

27. At the 14th meeting, on 19 July, the representative of Pakistan on behalf of Argentina, Australia, 2/ Bahrain, Bangladesh, 2/ Bhutan, 2/ Brunei-Darussalam, 2/ Canada, Egypt, 2/ Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon, 2/ Malaysia, Morocco, Myanmar, 2/ Nepal, 2/ New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, 2/ Senegal, 2/ Sri Lanka, 2/ the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, 2/ Viet Nam, 2/ Yemen, 2/ and Yugoslavia, introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.1/L.10) entitled "Combating aridity, soil erosion, salinity, water-logging, desertification and the effects of drought in South Asia", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/172 of 19 December 1989, in which the imperative need to address desertification in the framework of the interdependence of nations was stressed,

"Aware that South Asia, one of the most populous regions in the world, contains significant areas subject to aridity, soil erosion, salinity, water-logging, desertification and the effects of drought, which affect the lives of millions of peoples and the entire environment in the region,

"Noting that no comprehensive assessment has been made of this problem in the region,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, and other international and national development assistance organizations, to undertake a study which would assess the extent of this problem and its effects on the peoples of the region, and would also provide a framework for national and international cooperative efforts to tackle this problem in its physical and human dimension;

"2. Calls upon the international community to provide expertise and assistance to further national efforts, in the concerned South Asian countries, for concrete action to ameliorate the situation over a period of time."

28. At the 18th meeting, on 24 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Amaziane (Morocco), introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.1/L.20), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.10.

29. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.20 (see para. 32 below, draft resolution III).

30. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.20, draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.10 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

Reports considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of desertification and drought

31. At the 18th meeting, on 24 July, on the proposal by the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it take note of the reports considered in connection with the question of desertification and drought (see para. 33 below).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

32. The First (Economic) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Second phase of the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification of the International Fund for Agricultural Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1989/88 dated 6 July 1989, in which it stressed the urgent need for substantial progress in stimulating food production in developing countries and the importance of increasing domestic food production for stimulating national economic growth and social progress in those countries and helping to resolve the problem of hunger and malnutrition in an effective way,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 45/207 dated 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly, among other things, urged the members of the international community to take further determined action in support of the efforts of developing countries by increasing even more the flow of resources, including concessional flows designated for agricultural development, and by increasing food aid commitments in support of the strengthened efforts of developing countries to increase mobilization and allocation of domestic resources to address food and agricultural problems, in addition to the flow of resources from developed countries, bearing in mind the need to channel this assistance through appropriate existing organizations and programmes,

Welcoming the timely appeal made by the Secretary-General on 10 May 1991, reminding the world of the situation facing Africa and of the 30 million people in the continent threatened by famine,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution S-13/2 dated 1 June 1986, and in particular the provision of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 in which the African countries and the international community undertook, among other things, to devote priority attention and increased resources to reviving and developing food production and agriculture in Africa,

Recalling also resolutions CM/Res.1060(XLIV), CM/Res.1119(XLVI) and CM/Res.1322(LIII) adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of

African Unity at its forty-fourth, forty-sixth and fifty-third sessions and endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, together with resolution 721(XXVI) adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa on the second phase of the Special Programme of the International Fund for Agricultural Development for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification, appealing to the international donor community to increase the resources for the second phase of the Special Programme with a view to achieving the target of 300 million dollars necessary for a three-year period beginning in 1991,

Considering the mandate given to the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development by the Governing Council at its thirteenth session held, in January 1990, to consult donors on the mobilization of additional resources so that the Special Programme could continue for a second phase and the authorization given to the President and to the Executive Board of the Fund by the Governing Council at its fourteenth session to initiate activities for the implementation of the second phase of the Special Programme,

Also bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 45/207 on food and agricultural problems, in which the Assembly, among other things, invited donors to endorse resolution 60/XIII of 25 January 1990 of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, concerning the possibility of additional voluntary contributions to the Special Resources for Sub-Saharan Africa for a further three years, starting in January 1991, without prejudicing deliberations on the mobilization of core funding for the Fund,

Noting with satisfaction the positive contribution made by the Fund to the economic recovery programmes of its developing member States and the assistance provided by it to the African region in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, in particular through the first phase of its programme, in which the target of 300 million dollars was reached and the funds thus mobilized were fully committed,

Concerned at the constant deterioration in socio-economic conditions in Africa,

Greatly encouraged by formal statements made by a number of donors pledging contributions to the second phase of the Special Programme,

1. Welcomes the action taken by the International Fund for Agricultural Development under its Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification, which gives priority to improving food security by measures to preserve the environment and restore existing productive capacity and to ensuring that projects once completed will yield lasting benefits;

2. Stresses the urgent need for a steady, predictable and sustained flow of resources to Africa in order to promote rehabilitation and development, especially in agriculture, and in order to meet urgent needs in connection with drought control and economic reform;

3. Expresses its appreciation to countries which have already made firm pledges or have indicated their intention of making contributions to the second phase of the Special Programme over the period 1991-1993;

4. Invites donors to endorse resolution 60(XIII) of the Governing Council of the the International Fund for Agricultural Development, concerning the possibility of additional voluntary contributions to the second phase of the Special Programme without prejudicing the deliberations on the integration of the Special Programme into the general activities of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 39/208 of 17 December 1984, 40/175 of 17 December 1985 and 42/188 of 11 December 1987 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/44 of 21 July 1986,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/209 of 17 December 1985, in which the Assembly rationalized its consideration of drought and desertification issues,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/172 A of 19 December 1989 on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, included protection and management of land resources by, inter alia, combating deforestation, desertification and drought among environmental issues of major concern, and paid renewed attention to drought and desertification in its enunciation of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Deeply concerned at the dramatic effects of accelerating desertification, which have caused a substantial decline in agricultural output and served, in particular, to aggravate the current economic crisis in Africa,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa, 16/

Taking note of the work of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on this question and of Governing Council decision 15/23 of 25 May 1989, 17/

16/ A/46/286-E/1991/107.

17/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/44/25), annex I.

Taking note of the important contribution made by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in helping the countries of the region to prepare for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and encouraging the Office to continue and intensify its efforts in that area,

Congratulating the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office on its organization of consultative meetings of the Sudano-Sahelian countries at Ouagadougou from 13 to 15 February 1991 and at Cairo from 8 to 10 July 1991, in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and its detailed preparations for those meetings in the countries concerned with such partners as the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development,

Welcoming the results and resolutions of the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification in the countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel and the Economic Community of West African States, in the Maghreb countries, in Egypt and in the Sudan, held at Dakar in July 1985 and November 1985 and at Algiers in October 1988,

Welcoming also the renewed efforts of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office aimed at increasing support for the countries and organizations concerned and at cooperating with them, in particular with the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development,

Aware of the efforts that are already being made in the African region, inter alia, to combat desertification and drought, and the commitments made at the consultative meeting of the Sudano-Sahelian countries held at Cairo in July 1991, organized by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, and at the African Regional Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, held at Kampala in June 1989, 18/

Bearing in mind the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, 19/

Acknowledging that, in view of the scale and gravity of desertification and drought, programmes to combat those scourges require financial and human resources beyond the means of the countries concerned,

Noting with appreciation that the Regional Conference for Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, held at Marrakesh, Morocco, in June 1990, adopted the International Scheme of Land Conservation and Rehabilitation in Africa, with a view to giving to the countries of the region the means of developing their own programmes for the fight against land degradation, including desertification,

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18/ See E/ECA/CM.16/19.

19/ DP/1991/45.

1. Reaffirms the need for sustained implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/172 A;

2. Recognizes the commendable, sustained efforts made by the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel to combat desertification and drought, and welcomes its fruitful cooperation with Governments and United Nations organs and bodies;

3. Appeals urgently to the international community, particularly donor countries, to continue to support the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development and the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification;

4. Welcomes with satisfaction the progress made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development through its Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification;

5. Stresses the fundamental importance of South-South cooperation in executing programmes to combat desertification and drought and of the support of the international community that is necessary for such cooperation;

6. Recalls with satisfaction the interest expressed at the Summit of the seven major industrial nations, held in Paris from 14 to 16 July 1989, in aspects of the struggle against desertification and, specifically, in the planned Sahara and Sahel observatory; 20/

7. Notes with appreciation the solidarity with which the international community has responded to the assistance needs resulting from the emergency in Africa, particularly with regard to food aid, emergency medical assistance and the fight against grasshoppers and locusts;

8. Recommends that, within the framework of bilateral and multilateral development assistance programmes, the fight against desertification and drought should be given priority attention in keeping with the scope of those problems;

9. Invites the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to increase its efforts to mobilize additional resources in support of efforts of the countries within its purview and of the relevant regional organizations, notably the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development;

10. Urges the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to continue to help the Sudano-Sahelian countries to prepare for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the follow-up activities resulting therefrom;

11. Invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue to provide the countries of the region with all the technical assistance required to implement the recommendations of the International

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20/ A/C.2/44/11, para. 51.

Scheme of Land Conservation and Rehabilitation in Africa and invites the international community to support the International Scheme and initiatives within the framework of the implementation of national programmes for the control of desertification and drought as well as the recommendations of the Conference on Agriculture and the Environment organized by the Government of the Netherlands and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to place greater emphasis, in the World Economic Survey, on the situation and prospects of all countries stricken by desertification and drought;

13. Further requests the Secretary-General, given the urgency of the situation of the countries stricken by desertification and drought, to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the countries concerned, taking into account the work being done on the subject in the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to put forward specific, coordinated proposals for action, with due regard for the results of the third session of the Preparatory Committee of relevance to this issue.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Combating aridity, soil erosion, salinity, water-logging, desertification and the effects of drought in South Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/172 of 19 December 1989, in which the imperative need to address desertification in the framework of the interdependence of nations was stressed,

Aware that South Asia, one of the most populous regions in the world, contains significant areas subject to aridity, soil erosion, salinity, water-logging, desertification and the effects of drought, which affect the lives of millions of peoples and the entire environment in the region,

Bearing in mind the work already undertaken on desertification and drought in this area by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other agencies,

Noting that no comprehensive assessment has been made of this problem in the region,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and other international and national development assistance organizations, to undertake a study, within existing resources, which would assess the extent of this problem and its effects on the peoples of the region, and would also provide a framework for national and international

cooperative efforts, through appropriate existing United Nations, donor and international development institutions and national organizations and programmes, to tackle this problem in its physical and human dimension, and to present the study to the Economic and Social Council in 1992;

2. Appeals to the international community to provide expertise and assistance to further national efforts, in the concerned South Asian countries, for concrete action to ameliorate the situation over a period of time.

33. The First (Economic) Committee also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Reports considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of desertification and drought

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the following reports:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification; 21/

(b) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including the implementation of the Plan in the Sudano-Sahelian region. 22/

21/ A/46/157-E/1991/55.

22/ E/1991/L.29.